

April-May 2014

*TIDINGS*

*FBHI - 35 Years on Mainland, Island, and Sea*



Designed by Lynn Riddle for FBHI

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**Mark your Calendars  
 for the FBHI ANNUAL  
 MEETING  
 on May 18  
 1 to 5 p.m.**

We will have food, fun, a Silent Auction and two very special

**Happy Spring**

April 9, 2014

**Greetings!**

The Greater Boston area is thawing out from a long cold winter, and the Islands are starting to revive again. Friends and our partners in the Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area are hard at work getting ready for the 2014 season.

As you'll read in this edition of Tidings, there are new boat and food contractors for the islands. Boston Harbor Cruises was the boat contractor back when I first "met" the islands in the mid-80's and later I worked for BHC as a deckhand.

It was here where I developed my love of the islands and the harbor. It was the harbor where you may have heard our home and boat sank on February 16 this year. While our personal recovery from our loss has been hard, we have been forging ahead and keeping our life as normal as possible. Read about it:

<http://www.gofundme.com/6zwzqw>

I have met with the FBHI Board and we have a number of activities planned and in the planning stages for our 35th Anniversary. To your left, you will note our

**Quick Links**

- [Join Online JOIN or RENEW your Membership with FBHI](#)
- [Boston Harbor Cruises](#)
- [Graves Light Blog](#)
- [RVSP for the FBHI Annual Meeting](#)

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You can always find out more information on our web page:

**[FBHI.ORG](http://FBHI.ORG)**



**Meet Volunteer**

**Kathy Dever**

*Kathy Dever has*

guests. You must [RSVP](#) to attend. [Click here.](#)

35th Anniversary logo.

A huge thank you to Lynn Riddle Waller for the design.

We'll have a silent auction at the Annual Meeting from 1 to 5 p.m. on May 18 on Long Island, Camp Harbor View. Dave and Lynn Waller, the new owners of Graves Light, will be our special guests and will present a talk about this very amazing landmark. Afterwards we'll have time for a safe exploration of Long Island Head.

*Kathy Dever has graciously volunteered to help out in the Friends' office. Here's her story in her own words:*

Born, raised and educated in Boston-Girls' Latin and Emmanuel College, I raised my family and lived in Quincy for more than 30 years. I now live in Hingham.

I taught French and did some substitute teaching after graduating while my three children were young. While staying home to raise my children, I took accounting and computer science courses. This eventually led to working full time in accounting for the next phase of my career. My last position which ended in 2012 after 12 years was as a supervisor of accounting.

For the last two years I have been a substitute teacher in the Hingham School system and a volunteer with FBHI and the Hingham Historical Society.

My love for the ocean, beaches and history led me to FBHI where I volunteered on Georges Island and under Kevin Rogers' direction, I have been setting up the FBHI displays in our local libraries.

Since Roma Hertel, the FBHI office coordinator left in mid August, I have been volunteering in the FBHI office in Hingham.

I am enjoying my work with the FBHI organization and feel I am constantly learning something new.



Courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society

## A Very Special Annual Meeting



The [news was exciting](#): A couple had purchased Graves Light, a remarkable lighthouse in the Harbor Islands. And now is your chance to meet David and Lynn Waller, the new owners of Graves Light. They will be the special guests of the Friends at our annual meeting on May 18.

Lynn, Carol and Dave Waller will give a presentation on Graves Light and Fog Station, which they purchased at "The Greatest Auction in Boston's History" last fall. See story below right for additional details.

[RSVP](#) today. You don't want to miss this.

Photos, taken by Dave Waller of the seldom seen interior levels of the lighthouse station, are on this page, plus you can see more on the [keeper's blog](#).



The Wallers and Graves Light

Thank you to the Wallers for the presentation, and to the teams that are working on the Annual Meeting preparations (food organized by Kevin and Tom), and for the Silent Auction (Rab and Charlotte). I hope you can make it to the annual meeting this year. [Pre-registration](#) is required for security purposes.

Suzanne Gall Marsh has been hard at work coordinating boat trips for this season, and we hope to have a special announcement for a new trip this year but we haven't finalized the detail.

Thank you also to Kathy Dever and Charlie Boyer our office volunteers and Carol Fithian, Coordinator of Volunteers. They've been hard at work keeping the office and member database up to date.

Thank you as a reader. Our last issue of Tidings had a very high "open" rate - the system we use tracks the number of people that open the emails! So keep up the good work.



something new.



### Silent Auction: A New Tradition

This annual meeting will have another first: A silent auction. This year the FBHI was unfortunately not able to participate in the annual boat show and thus lost a stream of revenue. But you can help by bidding -- and bidding often -- on some of the remarkable items that will be at the annual meeting.

We also need your help for contributions. Rab Sherman and Charlotte Knox are organizing a silent auction.

If you have anything that you'd like to donate for the auction or could suggest a good lead to contact for a contribution please call 617-287-2536 or send a message to Rab at [lovellsrabbitt@aol.com](mailto:lovellsrabbitt@aol.com).

See the Boston Globe story on the [Waller's](#).

Please submit "old" photos of your time with the FBHI to my email: [chairmanfbhi@gmail.com](mailto:chairmanfbhi@gmail.com) and we'll post an online photo album and remember the old days to today. The islands are for the public to share and your photos can be a great way to share your experience with our members, and the public in general.

Enjoy the sun and the spring!

Yours,  
Walter Hope, Chairman FBHI

Walter Hope, Chairman  
PO Box 121020, Boston MA 02112 for personal notes, and stories.

This month's Tiding was edited and designed by Stephanie Schorow with copy editing, newsgathering, production, and moral support by Suzanne Gall Marsh. Thanks go to contributors Dave Waller, Kathy Dever, Carol Fithian, Kevin Rogers, Walter Hope and many others.



### FBHI Member Benefits

FBHI membership has its benefits including eTidings, discounts on boat trips with FBHI, Boston Harbor Cruises, and more. For Membership Benefits - click [BENEFITS](#)

#### Back Issues of Tidings

To see back issues click on [TIDINGS](#)

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## The Graves Light Story

Waves sweeping Graves Ledge were a menace to mariners from the earliest days of Puritan Boston, claiming untold vessels and lives. By the turn of the 20th Century, when Broad Sound became the principal route for deep draft ships, the extreme northernmost Islands in Boston Harbor needed an improved navigational marking.

On May 18, at the FBHI Annual Meeting, the Wallers will tell the tale of the extreme engineering and construction project resulting in what some considered "the finest lighthouse in the country."

Graves Light features quarter sawn oak paneling, mahogany handrails and powerful First Order lens inside a two story bronze and glass lantern.





Interior of Graves Light.  
Photo courtesy of the Wallers

To quote from a poem by Henry J. Clark published in the *Boston Globe* of Sept. 1, 1905, upon the completion of the lighthouse:

*Now thou art conquered, thy terrors are gone;  
Grim death is displaced, and life sits on thy throne:  
Secure on thy rock the light shines that saves  
And guides to the haven, Thou welcoming Graves.*

The Wallers have scoured the National Archives in Washington and unearthed over 1,000 documents, from detailed engineering drawings to weather reports, records of supplies, Keeper's logs and accident records.

Closer to home, a number of historical records generously provided by USCG Sector Boston shed light on the era since the Coast Guard took over the job from the Lighthouse Service.

The Wallers will also share their plans to stabilize and renovate the 109-year-old tower. A question and answer session will follow

*Submitted by Dave Waller*

### A Message from Carol Fithian, Coordinator of Volunteers

#### **Greetings to all returning and potential new FBHI volunteers**

Planning for the 2014 season is underway. Lots of changes coming this year along with familiar programs and the staff you have worked with in the past. Volunteer training will help you sort it all out and reconnect you with the islands and the faces you have come to know and also waiting to discover.

#### **Here are some training dates to mark on your calendar:**

- Saturday, May 10, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Boston Public Library, Johnson Bldg, conference room #1: The subject is: "Finding Your Place on the Islands".
- Saturday, May 31. Boat trip around the islands. This trip is an opportunity for you to see the islands you may not have the chance to visit while you are volunteering during the season. An experienced volunteer will highlight tasks and programming that volunteers frequently help with as we pull in close for a close up view. Plan for a full day for this training.
- June: Trainings specific to Georges, Spectacle, Lovells and the camping islands will be offered each on a different Saturday during the month. These trainings will take place on island with experienced volunteers and park staff.

**More details will be sent out via e-mail and will be on our [website](#) soon.**

**Call the volunteer office (978-356-4406) or e-mail me at [fithiancj@comcast.net](mailto:fithiancj@comcast.net) for additional information or questions.**

### PARK News and Notes



#### Park News and Notes

Ferry service to the Islands by [Boston Harbor Cruises](#) begin May 10. Friends members will continue to receive a 20% discount on ALL Boston Harbor Cruises trips including the Harbor Islands. Whale Watch.

Provincetown, Salem and more. Buy your ticket either online with the FBHI discount code or at the ticket window with your 2014 FBHI membership card. The spring and summer ferry schedules are posted both on the Park and BHC websites.

Welcome [Rita's Catering](#) from Everett as the new food vendor on Georges and Spectacle Islands.

Some upcoming events:

- Thursday, April 10, 7-8 p.m, "Peddocks Island - A Study of Community. " Learn more about the history and culture of the cottages located on Peddocks Island; Nantasket Beach Resort, 45 Hull Shore Drive in Hull. Co-sponsored by DCR, Hull Library and Hull Lifesaving Museum
- Stewardship Saturdays - "Volunteer outdoors on the islands on Stewardship Saturdays with the National Park Service Resource team" April through November; for dates, islands and to register go to the link below.

Check the [Park Calendar](#) for ongoing and upcoming events:

Update on the Boston Light [300th anniversary](#) in 2016. The Tricentennial Planning Committee meets bi-monthly. Friends members Ken Stein, Don Cann, and Suzanne Gall Marsh are on the Committee.

There will be no tours to Little Brewster/Boston Light this season has due to major rehabilitation work. For a description of all the work projects see [here](#). The island will re-open for public visits in 2015.

Congratulations and best wishes to Hugh Hawthorne, NPS/BOHA Director of Visitor Services, Youth and Education Programs. He has been appointed Superintendent of [Gila Cliff Dwelling National Monument](#) in New Mexico and will be leaving the Islands for New Mexico this month.

### Library Outreach Program

Kevin Rogers has done a remarkable job in building appreciation for the Boston Harbor Islands through his hard work in area libraries. He has set up display and given talks about the Island. The program is an effort to assist the Park Service in generating interest and appreciation for the Boston Harbor Islands National Park in communities surrounding Boston. Library displays are a very important tool to fulfill FBHI's goal of promoting a greater appreciation and stewardship for the Park among Boston Area residents. What started at Kevin's hometown of Halifax in 2009 has grown dramatically through the years! See the photo below.

We continue to expand our coverage area as we try to maintain our relations with previously visited libraries. Kevin's ultimate goal for the program is to visit the libraries bordering I-495 eastward including the harbor communities. We have volunteers that cover areas near their hometown. The volunteers' areas range from a handful to a dozen or so libraries in their area. Displays stay at a particular library for one month before moving to the next scheduled library. We have volunteers in different parts of Boston, but need many more in all areas of the city. Kevin was recently recognized with the Superintendent's Award for his work at creating and growing the Library Outreach Program.

If you'd like to help this great program, please contact Carol Fithian or Kevin directly at [kevinsouthshore@gmail.com](mailto:kevinsouthshore@gmail.com) or 339-933-2634

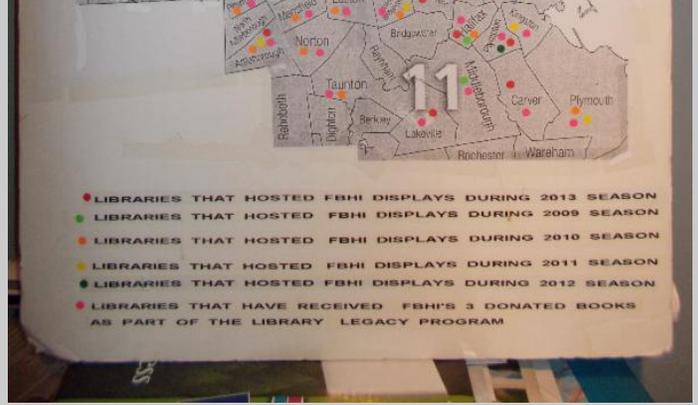
Kevin currently does three talks:

- Boston Harbor Islands Park in general
- Home on the harbor ( about different people who have called the harbor their home over the years).
- Fort Warren and the harbor's Civil War contribution.



In addition, Walter Hope has done several talks using his "Boston Harbor 101 - the ice age and beyond."

If you think your library might be interested in these talks, please have them contact us.



Scan this image to find our web page

Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands | [chairmanfbhi@gmail.com](mailto:chairmanfbhi@gmail.com) | 30 Shipyard Drive #202  
Hingham, MA 02043-1601

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